

In the Claims:

The claims under examination have been reiterated for the Examiner's convenience. For ease of reference, reiterated claims are italicized.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- a1
1. (Amended) [A] An isolated thermophilic enzyme having β -glycosidase activity which forms a tetramer, in which each subunit of the tetramer comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 [in which one or a plurality of amino acid residues may be deleted, replaced or added].

2. (Reiterated) *The enzyme of claim 1, having an optimum temperature of 100°C or higher.*

Please add the following new claims: C

- a2
- 12. (New) The enzyme of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence has from 1 to 30 amino acids replaced of SEQ ID NO:2 except for amino acids at the following positions: Q at 19, H at 111, N at 154, E at 155, Y at 267, E at 324, W at 362, E at 369 and W at 370.
13. (New) The enzyme of claim 13, wherein the amino acid sequence has from 1 to 18 amino acids replaced of SEQ ID NO:2.--

Add C2